

Triton Divers Newsletter (only a short one – I am going away on holiday!)
July 2009

Social Events

CLUB MEETINGS

You found out about the July club meeting in the last newsletter (as it was a bit late coming out). And there is no club meeting in August due to the summer ball. So the next normal club meeting will be on Thursday 3 September so get the date in your diaries – not sure what the menu is going to be but will let you know.

...and a quick reminder for the 1st October meeting. We have Phil Short coming to talk to us about his expeditions to the remotest parts of Russia for a charity night/club night. Tickets for the event will be £5 to club members and £10 for guests, with all proceeds going to charity as usual. To find out more about Phil and his exploits have a look at his website <http://www.philshorttechnical.co.uk/main.htm>

It will be a ticket event in the Royal Beach Hotel so let us know if you are coming in good time.

Club News

**SUPPORT YOUR FIRE FIGHTERS
22 AUGUST 2009**



We have done this for a few years now – on Saturday 22 August we will be supporting the Fire Station in Somers Town by running try dives in our 26,000 litre pool. The Fire Station Open day attracts lots of people and raises money for charity, so it is a really worthwhile cause. We will be putting the pool up on Thursday 20 August as well as running the pool on the day so if you would like to help out at this event we would be extremely

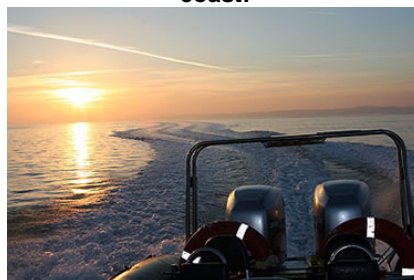
grateful. If you can help, even if it is only for a couple of hours, please let us know. It is always great fun and a very good cause.

CLUB WEEKEND TO PORTLAND



The club weekend to Portland in July was a huge success. We thought the numbers were good in June, but July was awesome and it took some juggling to get everyone on the dives they wanted to do – but it was well worth it. The weather forecast for Portsmouth was a bit of a blow out, but with slightly calmer conditions in Portland we had a chance of getting out. In total our RIB Triton ran out with full loads of divers 7 times and with around 30 people including students on courses, we filled the bunk rooms at Fathom and Blues.

**THE NEXT CLUB WEEKEND
29/30/31 AUGUST
...and it includes a cruise down the coast!**



Same sort of thing, but with a slightly different theme. We thought for the next club weekend we would go to

Portland again (mainly because we can get out for some dives even if it does blow up a bit and because there is some cheap accommodation), however, this time we are going to be taking our 2 boats. If there are enough people and the weather is good we will take the boats Triton II and Renegade down along the coast.



The journey takes about the same time as driving but there are no traffic jams - oh yes, and its much more fun! If you want to ride with us rather than take your own car then you can and we will just ask for a donation of £25 per person return towards the fuel. We will then be running harbour dives and offshore dives over the 2 days so plenty of opportunities to get wet and have fun. If you want to go let us know as soon as possible.

RIB TRITON IS BACK IN POMPEY



For the time being our 7.5m RIB Triton is going to be based in Portsmouth. While Renegade is being refitted this will mean that we can offer diving that is value for money and convenient. At the same time we are having the trailer for the RIB rebuilt (in fact the guy at the trailer repair centre put down "perform a miracle" on the work sheet) so that we can take it away with us when we go away. So, when it is ready we will still be running open water training and club trips down in Portland. In the meantime, we are going to be sending out details of dives for the rest of the season in due course (in fact it will be once I get back

from holiday in a couple of weeks). So, watch this space.

Trip Reports

JULES TAKES MANDY ON A "NON-DIVING" HOLIDAY TO THE MALDIVES!



June 2009 saw our 25th wedding anniversary and I had promised my long suffering wife a non diving trip to Italy over this auspicious period. So how we ended up going to the tiny island of Elaidhoo, which forms part of North Ari Atol in the Maldives I don't know, I am just so glad that we did. Sun, white sand, coconut palms, lounge and a book, Maz was in heaven. Sharks, rays, empty dive boats, 20 to 30 metres of visibility and water temperature of 28 degrees C I was in a diver's paradise.

We arrived at Male airport in the Maldives after a 10 hour flight from Gatwick, retrieved our bags and made our way to the Sea plane terminal for our onward flight to Elaidhoo



The views from the sea plane were breathtaking as we flew about 1,000 feet above an azure blue sea dotted with submerged reefs and islands. Within an hour or two of arriving, diving was arranged to start the next day. (As this would be the day of our wedding anniversary I did limit myself to just the one dive.) As with many islands in the Maldives the dive centre offers a two-tank dive option. This is ideal as it enabled me to go out on the morning dive boat complete two dives and to still be back in time for lunch and to spend the afternoon with my non-diving wife.



Over the next two weeks followed a mixture of relaxing scenic reef dives, which as a keen photographer provided me with a wealth of photographic opportunities and exciting fast current dives which offered the prospect of diving with some of the big pelagic's that the Maldives is famous for.



There was even a wreck dive for which, following a current check, the guide warned the visibility was poor. The picture below was taken in that poor visibility ... oh for poor visibility like this in the UK! Once in a while we are privileged enough to experience an underwater encounter that is something just a little bit special. Such an encounter happened on this trip when eight rays remained with my buddy and me for the entire 60-minute dive. All too quickly the trip was over, but what an amazing experience it was. I will not be waiting for our golden wedding anniversary before returning that is for sure. Finally no dive trip report is complete without the ubiquitous turtle picture ...



and of course, the Maldavian sunset picture



Editor's Note: If you want to make yourself really jealous have a look at Jules' other photos and video footage on his Facebook site.

Training News

**RESCUE COURSE
19TH SEPTEMBER**



As you progress in your diver education the first couple of levels are all about you – you learn how to dive and improve your skills to a high standard with Advanced diver and Speciality course training. However, if you want to go that one step further, why not think about doing the Rescue Diver course.



This PADI programme is one of the best – you learn a lot and it is probably the most fun. It provides you with skills to look after yourself and others in a variety of situations. You will learn surface and underwater rescue techniques as well as search patterns and diving first aid. To do the full course you need to be an Advanced Open Water Diver and have a valid first aid certificate (we can sort that out for you as well at reduced rates). The next course is on 16th September and it still has some spaces so why not sign up.

The best dive club and the best diver training in Portsmouth